

	Cobra Gold A-3		Beaches B-1		Aerobics C-1
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Marines entry-level training back to basics

John J. Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Marine entry-level training will rein-vigorate its values-based approach, a top Marine official said here May 2.

At both Marine Corps Recruitment Depots — in Parris Island, S.C., and San Diego — senior drill instructors will hold “footlocker classes” with enlistees to strengthen the mentor-scholar relationship, Maj. Gen. George J. Flynn, the commanding general of the Corps’ Training and Education Command, told reporters at the Pentagon.

“The senior drill instructors will have their troops literally sit on the footlockers and will have that father-son, mother-daughter talk that really instills those values,” he said. “That’s where a lot of the val-

ues get reinforced and introduced to the recruits.”

Discussion topics will depend on when the sessions occur during boot camp, and Flynn said talks could range from what new recruits might experience when first arriving to a unit and what leadership they can expect, to financial advice and how young Marines should behave during leave.

Senior drill instructors soon will receive a guide on how to approach these footlocker sessions, he added.

Flynn said Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James T. Conway spurred the re-examination of entry-level training.

“This stemmed from his belief that the transformation from civilian to Marine is a national treasure and one that we must preserve and guard,” he said.

In addition, the Corps is considering an additional week of infantry training for both infantry and noninfantry Marines, which would likely include crew-served weapons training, plus convoy and counter-improvised explosive device training.

In about a month, officials at Marine Manpower and Reserve Affairs should render their judgment on whether the additional week is feasible. “All these things would provide a better-trained Marine to the operating forces,” Flynn said.

The general also announced a scheduling change to the 12-week Marine boot camp, involving the 54-hour endurance exercise Marines call “The Crucible.” In May, recruits at Parris Island will undergo the crucible in week 11, instead of week 10, and in October the

See BASICS, A-5

Pistol qualification takes tactical approach

Lance Cpl. Bryan A. Peterson
MCB Camp Butler

CAMP HANSEN, OKINAWA, Japan — Beginning Oct. 1, every Marine who qualifies with a pistol will need a flak jacket and a Kevlar helmet.

Recent changes made by the Marine Corps Marksmanship Center of Excellence are intended to make pistol qualification more applicable to a combat environment, according to Chief Warrant Officer Mark W. Clark, Range Control officer-in-charge for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, who noted similar procedures for the rifle range have been in practice for some time.

“On the rifle range, Marines are shooting at positions that are used in combat,” he said. “Currently on the pistol range, everyone holds the weapon in their hand at the alert until the targets pop up, no one wears helmets or flak jackets, and the only position used is the standing. The way the course

See PISTOL, A-2



Lance Cpl. Bryan A. Peterson

Private First Class Zachary D. Hardesty, range block noncommissioned officer, prepares to fire during the new pistol qualification course.



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Lance Cpl. Andrew Patterson and Cpl. Shane Manera work as a team to take down their opponent, Lance Cpl. Elijah Thomas, as they practice the combative mindset that requires Marines to stay calm and in control even in the face of death.

Warriors master combat mindset

Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Combat Correspondent

Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, continue their pre-deployment training by utilizing the skills and expertise of their senior leaders and help from outside sources in exercises conducted here May 1.

Trainers like Hunter Armstrong, a combat specialist with Integrated Combative Systems, a branch of the International Hapology Society, were asked by the leaders of Kilo Company to come and help train their Marines in the combat mindset.

Armstrong, who is also a subject matter expert with the Martial Arts Center of Excellence, spent the day training the Marines with excerpts from the advanced courses of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program manual.

“There are two basic types of combat mindsets; affective, which is categorized by those fights you see in bars, and predatory, which is what an animal displays while it hunts,” said Armstrong. “We want to train the Marines to use that predatory mindset.”

According to Armstrong, the affective mindset doesn’t allow a person to think clearly. It involves more posturing and threatening than actual violence. The person usually exhibiting this type of behavior has anything but a level head.

The predatory mindset, however, allows the combatant to use violence in the most effective manner, or helps him to avoid unnecessary violence.

“We are trying to get the Marines focused on limiting emotion and staying calm and cool on the battlefield,” he added.

During this portion of training the Marines used simulated rifle bayonets and knives to help ingrain this mindset.

Two Marines would have to take down one assailant in a smooth, fast and effective manner. They soon learned that even with two-on-one, if they didn’t stay focused they would end up dead.

“You have to keep your feet moving and keep up your momentum,” said Armstrong. “You have to accept your death and focus on only one

See COMBAT, A-5

Iraqis able to move forward as surge takes hold

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Eighty percent of the U.S. military units involved with the surge of troops into Baghdad and western Iraq are now in place, a senior U.S. military officer said in Baghdad yesterday.

“Four of the five American reinforcement brigades are now in Iraq,” Army Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, spokesman for Multinational Force Iraq, told journalists during a media roundtable.

An additional U.S. brigade is slated to arrive by June 1, Caldwell said.

Operation Enforcing the Law was launched in mid-February to secure Baghdad and western Iraq and tamp down violence in those areas.

The operation is to provide the fledgling Iraqi government with breathing room to resolve pressing political issues such as Sunni-Shiite reconciliation, de-Baathification, constitutional reforms, and an oil-revenue-sharing program that includes all Iraqis.

“Once security is improved, the Iraqi people will be able to move forward,” Caldwell said.

The surge also buys time for further development of Iraq’s armed forces and police, “so that they can assume responsibility for protecting themselves,” Caldwell said.

Iraqi-on-Iraqi sectarian violence has decreased since the operation began, U.S. officials have noted. Yet, continued terrorist attacks staged by al Qaeda and other insurgents make the security situation in Iraq “complex and challenging,” Caldwell acknowledged.

“Our efforts may get harder before life gets easier for the Iraqis,” he said. Further progress in Iraq will depend on commitment, perseverance and sacrifice, he said.

“Military action is necessary (in Iraq) to provide the opportunity to reach long-term political solutions, but it alone is not enough,” Caldwell said.

Ultimate success will depend upon the Iraqi people, he added.

Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, Multinational Force Iraq commander since Feb. 10, continues to oversee U.S. contributions to the surge. About 60 joint U.S.-Iraqi security stations have been established in and around Baghdad as part of Petraeus’ strategy to deny insurgents the opportunity to embed themselves among the city’s residents.

Petraeus has pledged to gauge the effectiveness of the surge through a security assessment that he’ll provide to the Iraqi and American people by September, Caldwell said.

Caldwell acknowledged continued

See SURGE, A-5

News Briefs

Blood Drive

Headquarters Battalion will conduct a Blood Drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the battalion conference room, building 4009 today. For more information, call 257-5734.

Centerline Parking Lot Closure

In preparation for the triathlon scheduled to be held tomorrow, any vehicle in the centerline parking lot between Hangar 102 and 103 needs to be moved no later than close of business today.

Marine Security Guard Screening

A Marine Security Guard screening team will be aboard the base Monday and Tuesday. Enlisted Marines interested in volunteering for MSG duty should contact their unit career retention specialist as soon as possible.

Weekly Legal Brief

A new weekly brief to aid Marines, Sailors and civilian personnel on Wills and Powers of Attorney will be held at the Legal Services Center, Legal Assistance Office, every Wednesday at 10 a.m. Also included are some important tips on wills and powers of attorney.

Recruiter Assistants Needed

The Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Harrisburg, Pa., is looking for motivated Marines to serve as recruiter assistants. RS Harrisburg covers the following counties in Pennsylvania: Fulton, Franklin, Perry, Cumberland, Adams, York, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Chester, Berks, Schuylkill, Wyoming, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne, Pike, Monroe, Northampton, Carbon, Lehigh, Bucks, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Delaware.

For more information about the recruiter assistance program in your hometown area, contact Staff Sergeant Christopher Cunningham at (717) 770-6637.

Tax Return Assistance

The tax center is now located in Building 215, Room 201. For service members who still need assistance with filing their federal or state tax returns, please stop by or call 257-4038 ext. 228 for an appointment.

CLICK IT or TICKET

Hawaii Marine urges its readers to buckle up. It's an easy habit to learn that may some day save your life and the life of your passenger(s). Remember, each and every time you get into your vehicle, reach for your seatbelt. Make it one of those good habits that you won't want to break.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters

Hawaii Marine invites its readers to e-mail its editor at editor@hawaiimarine.com with their comments and letters.

All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name, and a telephone number must be provided.

Hawaii Marine also accepts news briefs containing relevant information pertaining to Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

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Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCBH Duty Chaplain	257-7700
DEERS	257-2077

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Do April showers really bring May flowers?



Lance Cpl. Regina A. Ruisi

Combat Correspondent

I can't believe it's May already. Where has the year gone? It seems like each year goes by faster. Maybe it's because I get older each year, so one year is a smaller

percentage of my lifetime.

I've heard it said that life is like a roll of toilet paper; the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes. It's a strange metaphor I know, but I guess it's true.

When March came around I remembered the old saying "March comes in like a lion, out like a lamb." I was in Maryland for March. It was windy and cold the entire time. The lion stayed around. He actually overstayed his welcome, visiting well into April. Now I'm skeptical of the April/May saying...do April showers really bring May flowers?

I grew up on Long Island, N.Y. We had all four seasons there. Summer was hot and humid, fall brought about the changing of the leaves, winter never went without snow and spring brought some welcome color after the winter's gray skies.

The old wives-tale was true in that region of the country. It rained all April, and in May the colors exploded. Art teachers everywhere went crazy, making students bring easels and brushes and canvases outside to "capture the landscape."

I guess every art teacher around the country couldn't be so lucky. The old adage works for some places, but it can't possibly

be true everywhere. Look at Hawaii; the flowers are out long before May, and it rains everyday regardless of if it's April or not. So what gives? What are we supposed to do with that now? Maybe we have to get a little deeper into the meaning of it.

Maybe there's some kind of hidden message in the saying. It could be one of those "it's always darkest just before dawn" messages.

Chew on this a little bit: April showers could be the little bumps in the road, the obstacles we have to overcome to get to the May flowers. I'm sure we all know what the May flowers are. It's very different and very personal for each of us. I guess Dolly Parton was right when she said, "to get to the rainbow you have to put up with some rain."

So, do April showers really bring May flowers? It's hard to say. It all depends on what you do with those showers. If you stand there in the rain getting soaked, you're going to catch a cold. Plant the seeds for whatever it is you want to achieve and suffer through the rainy season. When May comes, you're flowers will be in full bloom and you can brag to the neighbors about your garden.

Does your home check out for electrical safety?

Taylor W. Wells

Electrical Safety Foundation International

Before you leave home in the morning, you run through a mental checklist: Keys? Check! Lights? Check! Blinds? Check!

But most Americans have never thought about running through a checklist that could save them from electrocution or electrical fire: an electrical safety checklist.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. The Electrical Safety Foundation International has created a free, downloadable checklist covering electrical issues that may arise inside your home.

Covering every room from the kitchen to the basement, the checklist guides users through their homes' electrical systems via a series of questions and suggested action items.

- Do your lights flicker when you turn on the vacuum cleaner? If so, have a licensed electrician

determine if your home has enough electrical circuits.

- Are you protected from electrocution that could result from electricity interacting with water?

You should conduct a monthly test of the ground fault circuit interrupter outlets in the kitchen and bathroom.

"Many people will be surprised at how simple and quick an in-home electrical safety inspection can be," added Mr. Electric president Jeff Meyers. "In addition to the excellent checklist provided by ESFI, consumers may also want to contact their local company to schedule a comprehensive and professional 12-point home safety check-up.

To download ESFI's Indoor Electrical Safety Checklist, go to www.electrical-safety.org.

For additional electrical safety information, visit the Foundation's Web site at www.electrical-safety.org or call (703) 841-3229.

Summer electrical safety tips

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) warns of dangers that are present when water comes in contact with electricity. To reduce electrical hazards, ESFI offers the following safety advice:

- Summer is the season for swimming and boating. Awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries.

- Sailboats often have masts of 30 feet or more, which are dangerous when they come into contact with overhead power lines. Staying at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines can help prevent lethal electrical hazards.

- Use outlet covers on outdoor receptacles near swimming pools.

- Keep cords and electrical devices away from pools.

- Never handle electrical items when you are wet.

- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

- Electrical devices such as circuit breakers, fuses, GFCIs, receptacles, plugs and switches can malfunction when water and silt get inside. Replace those that have been submerged.

- Do not allow power cord connections to become wet. Outdoors, dangers such as power lines in contact with water can pose electrical hazards. Indoors, submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, a potential lethal trap. Before flipping a switch or plugging in an appliance, have an electrician check the house wiring and appliance to make sure it is safe to use.

- When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electric shock.

PISTOL, from A-1

is right now hasn't been making it right for Marines when they deploy in (combat) areas."

In addition to the Kevlar helmet and flak jacket, the Marine Corps will incorporate the kneeling position at certain distances of the range.

At the 25-yard line, Marines will kneel during the slow fire portion and shoot controlled pairs while standing and kneeling. The 15-yard line stage of fire will include the standing-to-kneeling speed-reload drills.

In other changes, shooters will be required to start from the holster, not from the alert, Clark said.

"The biggest changes are the tangibles and how Marines will shoot," he said. "By having the Marines pull the gun out

of the holster, it requires them to think quickly in a situation.

The course also requires shooters to unbutton their holster, draw their weapon and shoot with one hand from the seven-yard line.

Sgt. Derrick A. Wise, Range Control's chief instructor of combat marksmanship coaches and combat marksmanship training, said Marines will have some flexibility with where they place their holster.

"A Marine can't holster the weapon on his back or anything crazy like that," he said. "The holster can be worn at the hip or between the hip and knee, but the flexibility is such that the Marine will engage the target from the holster comfortably and efficiently without fumbling around with their gear. They need to shoot here the way they will shoot in combat."

With the new changes, range block noncommissioned officers are spending time each month to familiarize themselves with the new procedures before Oct. 1 so they will know how to enforce the new rules when Marines come to qualify.

Wise said the Marines testing the new modifications are focusing on form and technique.

"Before they go out and enforce the rules and answer any questions people have, they have to know what they are doing first," Wise said. "With Marines coming on the rifle and pistol range all the time, we can only afford a few days a month to come out here, and that's why we will need until October to get this validated."

The current pistol course point system will stay the same, Wise said.

Weekend weather outlook

Today



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 81

Low — 72

Saturday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 81. East wind around 11 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

High — 81

Low — 71

Sunday



Day — Scattered showers. Partly cloudy, with a high near 80. East wind around 13 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Night — A 20 percent chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 72. Southeast wind around 9 mph.

High — 80

Low — 72

Ceremony kicks off Cobra Gold 2007

Story by
Cpl. Mark Fayloga
Combat Correspondent

Photos by
Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Combat Correspondent

JOMTIEN, Thailand — Exercise Cobra Gold 2007 officially kicked off Tuesday at an opening ceremony in the Ambassador City Reception Room attended by dignitaries from each of the Pacific partners involved.

Cobra Gold is an annual multilateral exercise U.S. and Thai armed forces have participated in for 26 years. Started as a bilateral exercise in 1982, Cobra Gold has expanded to include several U.S. and Thai partners in the Pacific region, including Singapore, Japan and Indonesia.

More than a dozen additional countries, including 10 that are part of a Multinational Planning Augmentation Team, are observing Cobra Gold.

Exercise planners have expanded their focus on peace operations this year. In addition to improving multi-national interoperability and demonstrating the United States' ability to deploy a joint task force rapidly to conduct joint, combined operations, participants will also focus on conducting transition planning with a United Nations force.

Australia, Brunei, South Korea, Italy, the United Kingdom, India, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Mongolia are all participating MPAT countries. France, Germany, South Korea, the Philippines and China will also be a part of the exercise as observing nations.

"These personnel broaden the Cobra Gold training experience by providing different perspectives on CTF operations," said Col. John O'Hey, assistant chief of staff, training and operations, Cobra Gold. "The observer program allows non-exercise participants an opportunity to see what this valuable training exercise has to offer and how it contributes to regional security."

Alexander A. Arvizu, deputy chief of mission, U.S. Embassy, Thailand spoke about how the exercise has evolved over the years to accommodate the ever-changing missions in the Pacific region.



The official party for the combined military exercise Cobra Gold 2007 joined hands in a symbol of unity and brotherhood to start the 26th annual exercise during an opening ceremony at the Ambassador City Hotel, Jomtien, Thailand, Tuesday. (From left to right) Indonesian Ambassador Ibrahim Yusuf, Singaporean Ambassador Peter Chan Jer Hing, Thailand Supreme Commander General Boonsrang Niumpradit, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Alexander A. Arvizu and Japanese Ambassador Hideaki Kobayashi.

"Cobra Gold has evolved from being a strictly bilateral joint exercise to a truly multilateral event designed to enhance our ability to respond to peace enforcement and peacekeeping responsibilities under the United Nations."

A UN planning cell comprised of personnel from Thailand, Singapore, Japan and Indonesia is a key training audience involved in the exercise.

"The UN planning cell adds a whole new dimension to Cobra Gold by providing a training partner that has its own dynamics, mission and operating procedures," said Capt. Tipnant Dorne, Royal Thai military deputy chief of planning for the exercise.

Cobra Gold is the U.S.'s largest multilateral exercise in the region and offers the more than 20 participating countries critical training

opportunities to improve interoperability and capability in conducting multinational operations.

While the MPAT and UN planning cell contribute to the overall training during Cobra Gold, there are three major parts to the exercise: A peace support operations-based staff exercise involving a Thai led UN authorized multinational combined task force, a series of humanitarian civic action projects, and several field training exercises involving U.S. and Thai forces.

"For over a quarter century, Cobra Gold has been the most visible symbol of United States and Thai military cooperation," Arvizu said. "Cobra Gold makes the militaries of each of our countries better able to operate."

The importance of the training received during Cobra Gold was evident a few years ago when many of the exercise's participating countries joined together for real world operations.

"In November 2004, at the final

CG planning conference, Thai, American, Japanese and Singaporean officers worked closely together in developing an understanding of each other's capabilities," said Arvizu. "Two months later after the Indian Ocean tsunami spread devastation throughout Southeast Asia, scores of these same officers were working together to save lives. Their ability to work together was due in no small part to their having fostered relationships and developed skills under Cobra Gold."



The ambassadors and senior military officials from Thailand, United States, Singapore, Indonesia and Japan met at a luncheon after the opening ceremonies of the combined military exercise Cobra Gold 2007, at the Ambassador City Hotel, Jomtien, Thailand, Tuesday.



The joint service color guard marched on the colors of the five primary participating countries during the opening ceremony of the combined military exercise Cobra Gold '07 at the Ambassador City Hotel, Jomtien, Thailand, Tuesday.

Thai, U.S., regional partners come together for combined exercise

Cpl. Mark A. Fayloga
Combat Correspondent

JOMTIEN, Thailand — U.S. military troops are on the ground throughout the Kingdom of Thailand, and are gearing up with various Pacific allies for Exercise Cobra Gold 2007.

Cobra Gold 2007 marks the 26th anniversary of the exercise which is held to promote regional peace and security. It is slated to take place in various locations throughout Thailand May 8 to 18.

Cobra Gold is a Thai and United States-sponsored exercise designed to train a multinational Combined Task Force.

In addition there will be a Thai, Japanese and Singaporean United Nations Force Headquarters Planning Cell. The exercise will demonstrate U.S. Pacific Command's ability to deploy a Joint Task Force rapidly to conduct joint and combined operations, conduct transition planning with a UN force, and improve multi-national military-to-military relationships with Pacific allies.

Events held this year will consist of a computer simulated staff exercise, senior leaders seminar, various field training exercises and 11 humanitarian and civic action projects consisting of four engineering construction projects and seven medical, dental and veterinary clinics.

"During Cobra Gold 2007, for the exercise portion, we will be basically working from a [security and stability oper-

ation] moving into a peacekeeping operation bringing in the UN and all the combined forces of Thailand, the U.S., Singapore, Japan and Indonesia," said Maj. Mike Samples, Cobra Gold Field Training Exercise current operations officer. "The U.S. always remains committed to the security and humanitarian interests of The Kingdom of Thailand and we utilize CG 07 to engage in those areas with the government of Thailand."

Samples believes the training will provide critical opportunities to enhance security relationships in conducting multinational operations throughout the Pacific.

"You have multiple interoperability and working relationships developed between Thailand and the U.S. and their regional partners," said Samples.

For the U.S., CG 07 provides each service the opportunity to work alongside their Thai counterparts, as well as, demonstrate the United States' resolve to support the security, stability and humanitarian interests with their Pacific partners.

"Combined and joint training will be conducted on a daily basis," said Samples. "The Royal Thai Army will be working with the U.S. Army in Pranburi, the U.S. Navy and the Royal Thai Navy will conduct operations in the Gulf of Thailand and there is going to be a robust air cell put together with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. The 1st MAW will be engaged in advising, training and mentoring the Royal Thai Air Force in the command and control of air operations."

Each day the U.S. Air Force will also fly a B-52



Master Gunnery Sgt. H. Farrell

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion-3, Port Hueneme, Calif., (currently deployed to Camp Shields, Okinawa, Japan) lay brick for a storage facility for a school being constructed here in support of Cobra Gold 2007.

Stratofortress through Thai airspace and back to Andersen Air Base on Guam, highlighting its global reach capability.

The exercise is designed to improve interoperability of those participating along with building friendly cooperative relations. Multi-national responses to regional contingencies are likely to be the norm in the future and Cobra Gold is a way for the countries participating to prepare for such a response. The multi-national response to the humanitarian crisis resulting from the December 2004 tsunami was rapid and much more efficient due to the strong ties developed as a result of this annual exercise.

Continuous Process Improvement program kicks off

Kevin G. Emery
MCBH Management Analyst

The Marine Corps’ Continuous Process Improvement program employs a top-down, strategic development approach that is consistent with Department of Defense CPI doctrine.

This approach maintains a focus on improving the support of Marine Corps warfighting capability, engages key leaders and CPI Champions to drive the effort, and ensures tangible and quantifiable improvement results.

The CPI program is made up of three components. The first is the “Theory of Constraints,” which identifies problems in the system and goes through the steps necessary to make the process more efficient.

The second is the “Theory of Lean,” which reduces unnecessary waste in the system, and the third is the “Theory of Six Sigma,” a tool to eradicate defects in the process. These components are the foundation for CPI/ Lean Six Sigma program.

Base Comptroller, Linda Warrick, was the Value Stream Champion for a Value Stream Mapping event and Priscilla Oku was the team leader for evaluating the existing spending and checks/balances process.

The team consisted of members from G-1, G-6, G-8, Safety, and the Business Performance Office. The VSM is a visual tool to help under-

stand the flow of material and information. It visually identifies all actions currently required to deliver a product or service. CPI is a big picture perspective that focuses on improving the whole vice only optimizing pieces of the process.

The value stream mapping event reviewed the existing spending and checks/balances process for the internal accounts within G-8 and MCBH. Particular attention was paid to the various roles and responsibilities of fiscal managers and clerks to better meet customer requirements.

The results of the VSM will be; improved communication, better understanding of the spending plan, and standardization of the whole process. Many new areas were identified by the team for future CPI events.

The second CPI action was a Rapid Improvement Event of the base Check-In/Out process for MCBH active duty personnel. Installation Personnel Administration Center Director, Pete Swainson, was the RIE champion and the team leader was Helen Josypenko, also from IPAC.

The team consisted of members from G-1, BPO, MCCS, HQBN, and PMO. The goal was to reduce the man-hours expended during the MCBH Check-In/Out process. The Check-in process was reduced more than an hour, a 40 percent improvement in time saved. The more dramatic improvement came for the MCBH check-out process. That process was

reduced from 27 steps down to three.

In addition, the overall time was reduced from over six man-hours to less than one man-hour. This equals an 85 percent improvement in time saved. As with the spending and checks/balances VSM, numerous other areas for future CPI events were identified.

Instrumental to the success of the MCBH CPI kickoff was the support offered by LtCol. Bob Krekel, commanding officer, Marine

Aviation Logistics Squadron 24.

Led by Capt. Leroy Sumter, the MALS-24 AIRSpeed staff provided valuable insight and facilitation to the MCBH teams in the success of these two CPI/LSS events.

These efforts were only the first steps on this important CPI/LSS journey to improve MCBH’s quality of service and provide “Overwhelming Support” for our tenant operational units.

Color guard seeks motivated Marines

Pfc. Ethan Hoaldridge
U.S. Marine Forces, Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — The creases on his uniform were starched and ironed to perfection, the brass buttons and buckle polished to a gleam and each step he would take along side his fellow Marines in the ceremony was memorized.

Whether it is for the President of the United States, the Commandant of the Marine Corps or for the remains of soldiers brought home from the Vietnam War, the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific color guard is present and carrying the American and Marine Corps colors proudly.

Most often, two rifle bearers and two noncommissioned officers carrying the colors, wearing their dress-blue deltas, travel all over the isle of Oahu for numerous events that rate a color guard.

“We’ve represented our unit as a color guard several times for VIPs such as the President, the Commandant and the Secretary of the Navy,” said Sgt. Alexander Velazquez, MarForPac color sergeant. “It’s an honor to be an ambassador of the Marine Corps and its values, wherever we go.”

The eight members of the MarForPac color guard must look sharp both in appearance and movement at every moment while performing their duties in the public eye.

“Everyone always seems to pay more attention to the Marines than the actual event when we march out in step wearing our dress blues,” said Lance Cpl. Zachary Dalling, a MarForPac color guard rifle bearer. “It’s also very satisfying when people come up and compliment you for doing a good job, especially when it’s a war veteran.”

The number of color guard events varies from month to month. The summer months can reach 12 or 13 events and December may have 16.



Cpl. Louis T. Corwise Jr.

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific color guard participates in many high visibility events throughout the year, such as Australia and New Zealand Army Corps Day at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific April 25.

“When we’re tasked multiple color guards back to back, it becomes hard to meet the requirement with so few color guard members,” said Velazquez. “I love being a part of it, but I have a wife and children and not to mention my normal responsibilities as an NCO in the training office.”

The MarForPac color guard has eight members now, and hopes to have 16 total to lighten the current work load.

“I would like four more NCOs and four more junior Marines on the color guard to make two more teams,” said Velazquez.

First Sgt. John Krumholz, MarForPac Headquarters & Service Battalion first sergeant, said, “Marines who

actively participate in the color guard will be left off the duty NCO and assistant duty NCO roster,” and he is in the process of providing dress blue uniform coats and dress blue delta uniform items to the color guard.

The opportunity to serve on the color guard is a privilege and a responsibility of the junior enlisted at MarForPac.

“I’m looking for motivated, willing Marines who take pride in the uniform they wear, to come and give us a hand for the upcoming months’ color guard events,” said Velazquez.

For more information or to volunteer to be part of the MarForPac color guard contact Sgt. Alexander Velazquez at 477-8355.

Marine retires from Corps with honors after 25 years

Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
Combat Correspondent

Chief Warrant Officer Kevin L. Martin pins a meritorious service medal to Master Sgt. Dean Jordan for his exceptional service to all the residents of Marine Corps Base Hawaii as the services chief, Military Police Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Master Sgt. Dean Jordan, who enlisted in the Marine Corps July 1, 1981, ended his career as an active duty Marine here after 25 years of faithful active service, May 4.

Jordan spent his entire career working with the military police force in some fashion including an assignment as part of the Security Department, Presidential Helicopter Squadron One, Quantico, Virginia.

His personal decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal and the Presidential Service Badge.



Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Chief Warrant Officer Kevin L. Martin pins a Meritorious Service Medal to Master Sgt. Dean Jordan May 4.

DFAS returns to its World Wide Web home

News Release
Defense Finance and Accounting Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service returned to its original World Wide Web location on May 1. The DFAS Web site shifted to www.dfas.mil from its current location within the Department of Defense domain at www.dod.mil/dfas. DFAS officials believe the change will make the Web site easier to find for its customers and partners. The information available on the site, which includes topics such as military and civilian pay, retiree and annuitant



pay, and vendor pay will remain up-to-date and relevant for the site's visitors. Visitors who have bookmarked the old site address at www.dod.mil/dfas to access the DFAS site should update their Web browser bookmarks with the new address. Anyone using the old address will be redirected to the new address automatically. This redirect service will be available for the foreseeable future. This change affects the DFAS public Web site only. Other DFAS-sponsored online applications, such as myPay, remain unaffected and can be accessed at their current online address.

SURGE, from A-1

al Qaeda-staged barbarity in Iraq, citing the terror group as a vicious enemy that employs bombings and mass murder of innocent people “to discredit the Iraqi government and demoralize its people.” “We see them use car bombs and suicide vests to try to dash hope and spark a cycle of violence,” Caldwell said of al Qaeda in Iraq terrorists. As an example of al Qaeda’s

evil, Caldwell pointed to last week’s discovery of live artillery shells and propane tanks rigged inside an Iraqi girls’ school. “The planned massacre bears all signs of an al Qaeda operation,” Caldwell said, noting the terror group routinely targets such innocents. The Iraqi people must reject al Qaeda and its twisted, murderous, philosophy, Caldwell emphasized. The actions of tribal leaders in

Anbar province who turned their backs on the terrorist group is a sign of promise and hope, he said. “This rejection of terrorism is leading to discovery of more and more weapons, stockpiles and ammunition,” Caldwell said. For example, more terrorist-stockpiled ordnance was found in the past four months in the city of Ramadi than was discovered there in all 2006, he said.

BASICS, from A-1

crucible exercise in San Diego will move from week eight to week 11. “We want to make The Crucible the true culminating event that it was originally designed to be,” he said. “At the end of this 54-hour event, you will be recognized as earning the right to be called a United States Marine.” The 12th and final week of training will be called “Marine Week,” Flynn said. “It’s a transition from going to a very restrictive environment to learning about how you

are going to function in the Marines when you reach the operating forces,” he said. “You’re going to get accustomed to the leadership that you’re going to experience out in the fleet and also understand the role of (noncommissioned officers) and staff NCOs other than being drill instructors.” Borrowing a quote from former Marine Commandant Lt. Gen. John A. Lejeune, Flynn said, “An individual should be better off for their service.” “And that’s really what this is all about,” he said. “It’s a recommitment.”

Flight Line Rodeo



Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin S. Beauchamp

Petty Officer 3rd Class Brian Holmes, aviation machinist mate, of Patrol Squadron 47 attaches an eyelet to a P-3C Orion during a competitive training exercise known as the Flight Line Rodeo. Four competing teams from VP-47’s maintenance department competed in six events during the Flight Line Rodeo for a custom designed belt buckle and bragging rights.

COMBAT, from A-1

thing, killing your opponent.” The Marines were taught that strong intent to kill, plus smooth movement may produce surprising results even when outmatched or outgunned. An over reaction or one pause could be the difference between life and death.

“You have to always be focused on the fact that you are going to get your enemy no matter what,” said Lance Cpl. Elijah Thomas, rifleman, 3rd Platoon, Kilo Company. “You cannot be worried about anything else.” Armstrong and the other instructors continued to drill it into the minds of the

Marines that this combat mindset is what will keep them alive on the battlefield. “After you understand and adapt to the mindset the next challenge is to apply it,” said Armstrong. Even when someone is trying to kill you, you have to remain in control of your thoughts and emotions.”

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— AROUND THE CORPS —

Marines enjoy fine dining in the desert

Staff Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham
2nd Marine Division

COMMAND OUTPOST NORSEMAN, RUTBAH, Iraq — For many military members working outside of the major bases in Iraq, chow consists of meals ready to eat and maybe one hot meal a day. But for the Marines and Sailors working here, chow in the desert resembles the menu of a fine restaurant.

Staff Sgt. Francisco A. Santiago, mess chief and logistics chief for Task Force Tarawa, and his Marines prepare two hot meals a day for more than 750 members of the task force.

“We support all Task Force Tarawa elements with food service,” said Santiago, a 28-year-old, Camuy, Puerto Rico, native.

On some of the major military bases, the job of a mess Marine is more curtailed toward quality assurance and control, said Santiago.

“Being out here we do all the cooking,” said Cpl. Algie D. Facen-Vaughn, assistant mess chief with TFT. “In the rear, we have contractors that do the cooking. We just check up behind them to make sure the food is good to go for the Marines.”

“Out here, we are field mess,” said Lance Cpl. Rene M. Cruzhernandez, food service specialist with TFT.

Keeping in tradition with all Marines serving in the field, the ability to adapt to their surroundings played a major role in completing their mission.

“When we got out here, all of the equipment in the kitchen was Army specific,” said Santiago. “We

had to make it work, and that was a challenge at first. Once we incorporated it with our gear, we were cooking bacon.”

Bacon isn’t the only thing cooking nowadays at the COP.

“We make our own menus here,” said Facen-Vaughn, a 25 year-old, Washington, D.C., native. “We are on a 15 day cycle, so on day 16 they will get the same meal they had on day one.”

Though the menu may seem short with only 15 different breakfast and dinner meals, the spread they put out makes up for it.

“We make chicken parmesan, shrimp scampi, chicken alfredo, and even fried chicken,” said Cruzhernandez, a 21 year-old, Winston- Salem, N.C., native. “We even provide them with stuff like salad and ice cream, stuff that is hard to come by in the desert.”

“Once a week we give them steak and lobster,” added Santiago. “It helps boost morale.”



Staff Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

Marines at Command Outpost Norseman are served two hot meals a day. Some of the items they have grown to love are the shrimp scampi, pot roast and chicken alfredo.

According to the Marines here, the chow supersedes their expectations of the food they would receive while in the field.

“The spaghetti is awesome, but I prefer the shrimp scampi and the pot roast,” said Master Sgt. Andreas J. Starling, operations chief for TFT. “I’m used to getting tray rats and MREs. That’s what the companies operating in the city wanted, until we introduced them to our field mess.”

The units within the city receive the same chow as the Marines and Sailors at the COP, explained Santiago.

“We make sure the Marines at the [forward operating bases] eat as well as we do,” said Facen-Vaughn.

“There’s not a whole lot to look forward to out here,” said Santiago. “When the Marines come from out the wire or come back from a patrol, they can expect a good hot meal. That’s the least we can do.”



Staff Sgt. Stephen L. Traynham

Lance Cpl. Rene M. Cruzhernandez, a food service specialist with Task Force Tarawa, empties a bag of shrimp scampi into a heated serving pan.